

Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum
Board of Directors
Minutes

March 20, 2003
3:00.p.m.

Monday Afternoon Club
Willows, Ca.

Chair Jane Dolan called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m at the above location. It was determined there was a quorum of (12) voting members present.

<u>County</u>	<u>Public Interest</u>	<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Butte	Jane Dolan	Shirley Lewis	
Colusa	(David Womble)	Ben Carter	
Glenn	Denny Bungarz	Don Anderson	
Shasta	(Glenn Hawes)	Dan Gover	
Sutter	Dan Silva	Russell Young	
Tehama	Bill Borror	(Brendon Flynn)	
Yolo	Lynnel Pollock	Marc Faye	
Resources Agency			Mel Dodgin
Cal DWR			Stacy Cepello
Cal DFG			Diana Jacobs
State Reclamation Board			(Pete Rabbon)
US F&WS			Mike Hoover
US COE			Mark Charlton
Bureau of Reclamation			Frank Michny
Cal DWR			Alison Groom

Names listed in parentheses represent absences

Manager Burt Bundy

Assistant, Pat Brown, Recording Secretary

1. Public Participation, Unscheduled Matters: Denny Bungarz reported on the first public planning workshop for the Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park General Plan held on March 18th. There are four locations involved, including the Irvine Finch River Access. The general plan is scheduled to be out in 2004.

Diana Jacobs, California Department of Fish & Game (CDFG) announced the Bay Delta Public Advisory Committee meeting will be held in Chico on March 25th and 26th. The two-day meeting will include a tour to various sites including the Hamilton City J Levee, Glenn Colusa Irrigation District and Sites Reservoir.

John Merz, Sacramento River Preservation Trust (SRPT), announced an upcoming "Salmon Country Conference" on May 10th at the Red Bluff Community Center. The conference will feature presentations on Cottonwood and Battle Creek and the proposed Sacramento River National Conservation Area (SRNCA). On Friday, May 9th, there will be a tour of the Fenwood Ranch property in Shasta County; a second tour will feature lands within the proposed SRNCA. The cost will be \$20.00 for the Saturday conference and \$5 for each of the tours.

A Sacramento River Spring Float Trip is scheduled for May 17th. The float will cover 9 miles of the Upper Sacramento River between Jelly's Ferry and Bend. The cost per person is \$35. Contact the SRPT at (530) 345-1865 to reserve space or for additional information.

2. Consent Calendar - Bill Borrer moved to adopt the February 20, 2003 minutes, seconded by Don Anderson. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

3. Agency Reports - Mark Charlton from the Corps of Engineers (COE) discussed the '04 budget; the dollars are less and only five design projects were in the budget because of the concern about the backlog of uncompleted projects. The Comprehensive Study still has some funding and Sutter County is funded for both fiscal years 03 and 04. Mark noted Yuba County received new construction starts because of the efforts made by Congressman Wally Herger. Regarding the CALFED issue, he reported there is a wide range of levels of support, many want federal agencies to be held more accountable as well as faster completion of projects. Mark will meet with Congressional staff next week to discuss CALFED and the need for it to be given a chance. Denny asked about the possible impact on the Hamilton City J-Levee Project because of the funding cuts to design projects. Mark noted the appropriations committee and Congressman Herger need to be kept informed of the project and the local support behind it.

Frank Michny was introduced as the new SRCAF Board member representing the Bureau of Reclamation. Frank noted the Bureau is dealing with the same budget constraints; they are being asked to spend money only on projects that relate to their core mission. The monies spent on environmental issues need to link back to that core mission.

Mel Dodgin, The Resources Agency, asked if the Bureau would come before the SRCAF Board to discuss the Red Bluff Diversion Dam Project. Frank Michny gave brief overview of the project noting the NEPA process is coming to an end but the decision on the issue is being deferred until the consultation is done on the Central Valley. Frank offered to contact the project manager for the Diversion Dam to try to schedule a time for him to come to one of the Board meetings.

Paul Ward, CDFG, announced a warden training session on March 26th and 27th in Chico. Discussion will include ways to coordinate with law enforcement along the river.

4. Consider Acceptance of Handbook Amendment Recommendation from Handbook Amendment Committee and TAC: The Handbook Amendment Committee met twice and developed alternative language that was then reviewed at the TAC. Some additional changes were suggested at the TAC meeting, those changes were incorporated and the revised language was emailed to both committees for final review and acceptance. Don Anderson moved that the Board accept the language, set the date for adoption at the May 15th amendment review meeting, and direct staff to notify the MOA signatories and Advisory Council members of the Board's intent to adopt the Handbook amendment. Dan Silva seconded the motion, motion passed by unanimous vote.

5. California Department of Fish & Game Management Plan - Diana Jacobs introduced Paul Hofmann and Paul Ward from CDFG and Greg Werner from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) all of whom are involved in the development of the management plan. Greg, who came to TNC after 30 years as a city planner and administrator, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the comprehensive management plan for the Sacramento River Wildlife Area from RM 144 to

RM171 and involves 13 units and 3600 acres. The objectives of the plan are to guide future conservation and public use of DFG lands. He noted that while TNC provides the scientific information, support, and day-to-day plan development and outreach, CDFG provides overall project direction and makes all key decisions. During the course of the plan development they will be reaching out to a wide variety of interests. The public outreach program includes interviews of interest group representatives, presentations to the SRCA Forum, Boards of Supervisors, Fish and Game commissions, public input and scoping meetings, and public review meetings for the draft plan. The schedule calls for the background analysis and public input in the spring of 2003, the draft plan out in the fall of 2003, and the final plan by winter, 2004. There will be a public meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1st at the Chico Masonic Family Center and at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 3rd, at the Colusa Industrial Park meeting room.

In response to a question Greg noted that a detailed analysis would provide information that is property specific rather than just an area.

Ben Carter noted that because the agricultural community is so busy this time of year he encouraged Greg and Paul to be very aggressive in seeking out small groups for input into the planning process.

Contact Information: Paul Hofmann, (530) 934-9309

Greg Werner, (530) 687-6374

6. Board Committee Reports-

- Executive Committee – The committee discussed the selection of Marc Smiley as consultant for the capacity building effort; Marc has had a great deal of experience with nonprofits, specifically conservation groups. Jane discussed the tasks and deliverables of the contract and covered some of the components, one of which would be a two-day planning conference. Following the discussion, the committee will recommend that the Board authorize the contract.

At the Board meeting, Lynnel Pollock moved that the Board accept the recommendation from the Executive Committee to authorize the signing of the contract with the Consultant; seconded by Denny Bungarz, motion passed by unanimous vote. The Chair directed the SRCAF Manager, Burt Bundy, to sign the contract and forward the initial payment to the consultant. The Executive committee will continue to work with the staff and consultant regarding the organizational aspects. The Board will be kept apprised of the progress.

- Landowner Assurances committee – Ben Carter, Chair, reported the committee is still reviewing options that are available regarding incidental take. The next meeting is set for April 9th at the Colusa Fair Board office.
- PILT/Economic Committee – Denny Bungarz, Chair, reported that the socio-economic report is being printed and includes all of the comments. Denny will report on the study at the April Board meeting. He also noted he received a note from Alex Oehler, Congressman Herger's office, regarding another full payment PILT bill that has been introduced. More information will follow as it becomes available.

John Merz announced an upcoming Resources Economics Conference on April 25th at the Bell Memorial Union in Chico. Information on the conference will be forwarded to the SRCAF staff for distribution to the group.

- TAC- Anjanette Martin, Chair, discussed the recommendation from the TAC that the Board form a Public Use & Recreation Committee to review and prioritize the recommendations made in the Public Use & Recreation Study that included involvement of the SRCAF. Discussion at the Executive Committee, however, recommended waiting until the consultant is in place to offer direction. Shirley Lewis suggested including private owners, i.e. Scotty's Landing, on the Public Use & Recreation Committee when it is formed. The TAC also discussed the project fact sheet and made some additional changes in addition to those made by the Project Review subcommittee. Anjanette asked that the Board review the form to see if it accomplishes what they want to accomplish and to offer any comments or suggestions.

7. Managers Report -

- Woodson Bridge – The COE is developing a Section 1135 Ecosystem Restoration Project for the Woodson Bridge/Kopta Slough area; the COE is working with the Reclamation Board and CALFED. Tehama County, with the support of the SRCAF, has been working for a long time to move this project forward. Burt will continue to bring information to the TAC and Board as things progress.
- Hamilton City – This project is moving forward also with the COE, Reclamation Board, and CALFED involved in the process. The next meeting is scheduled for April 1st at the Hamilton City Fire Hall.
- Rio Vista Unit – The Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge is working with Tehama County Public Works and TNC to look at ways to reduce flooding on South Avenue, near Woodson Bridge
- Colusa Sub-reach Planning – Funding should be forthcoming for a TNC grant to conduct sub-reach planning for the Colusa-Princeton sub-reach of the Sacramento River, RM 144-164. The SRCAF will be involved in the informational process; TNC will administer the grant. One of the first steps will be to set up an Advisory Committee comprised of various private interests to oversee the process. Burt will bring additional information to the next meeting.

John Merz announced a meeting on Monday, April 7th from 10:00 to 12:00 at the El Patio in Hamilton City to continue discussion on the possibility of locating an Interpretive Center near Hamilton City.

8. Future Meeting Dates – The April 17th Board meeting will be in Redding at the Turtle Bay Exploration Park. The staff will explore the possibility of having lunch and a tour prior to the meeting. The May meeting will be on May 15th, 3:00 p.m., at the Monday Afternoon Club in Willows. The June 19th meeting will be a barbeque, location to be determined. The Ordbend Park was suggested as a possibility.